

Focus On

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SEPTEMBER 2005

City Finances Looking Up **TAXES GOING DOWN**

Responsible Fiscal Management Is Paying Off **2006 BUDGET PROPOSAL CUTS TAXES**

Keep It Clean **NEIGHBORHOODS SEE MORE GREEN**

New Tactical Unit To Fight Violent Crime **POLICE INCREASE MEASURES TO REDUCE CRIME**

Executive Airport **WORKING TO REDUCE NOISE**



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JIM NAUGLE 2006 BUDGET PROPOSAL CUTS TAXES



The City's new fiscal year begins in October. In the coming weeks, the City Commission will finalize the budget for 2006 after hearing from the public.

Last year, it was a challenge to balance community desires with our financial reality. We took a conservative approach and advocated strict financial measures. We successfully pushed to end unnecessary spending and privatize some government services. Though difficult, we knew this strategy was necessary to ultimately benefit City residents. And the hard work has paid off.

As a result of responsible financial management, we have been able to turn Fort Lauderdale around. That is why the proposed budget includes a reduction in property millage rates for the upcoming fiscal year. Residents with homestead properties will see a reduction in their tax bills of approximately 6%. Not only does the millage rate decline, but an increase in real estate values will allow for the revitalization of crucial City services. Residents will benefit from initiatives to reduce crime and enhance quality of life. I encourage you to review the proposed 2006 budget and share your thoughts with the Commissioners at the public hearings on September 7 and 20.

**HARD
WORK
HAS PAID
OFF**

I will continue to urge my colleagues to follow a conservative fiscal policy. It is my belief that we are on the right financial footing and I am committed to ensuring that we remain on course. For more information on the financial plan and upcoming budget hearings, please visit our website at www.fortlauderdale.gov.

SISTER CITIES DIPLOMATS GALA OCTOBER 1



Join ambassadors, diplomats and dignitaries from around the world at the Fourth Annual Sister Cities Diplomats Gala. The black-tie affair will take place on October 1 at 7 p.m. at the Broward County Convention Center, 1950 Eisenhower Blvd.

The event will honor Congressman E. Clay Shaw, Jr.; Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jim Naugle and Citrix Systems, Inc. for their commitment to diplomacy and humanitarianism. Tickets are \$150 per person. Proceeds will benefit Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities International, a non-profit organization that supports humanitarian programs, scholarships, exchange programs, trade missions and economic development. For details, call **954.524.7228**; email SCIGala2005@aol.com; or visit www.gflsci.org.

FORT LAUDERDALE TO ADD NEW PARK



The City of Fort Lauderdale continues the quest to identify and preserve open space for future generations. The latest addition to the City's vast park system will be Riverland Park, located at S.W. 27th Avenue between S.W. 9th and 10th Streets. The new park will comprise 10 acres and feature a community center, water park, pool, playground, lighted walking trails and picnic facilities.

The City of Fort Lauderdale has 1,000 acres of parkland at 88 different parks throughout the city. Riverland Park will open to the public later this Fall. Watch for the date of opening ceremonies. Riverland Park is funded by the Parks Bond Referendum.

**FORT
LAUDERDALE
HAS 1,000
ACRES OF
PARKLAND**




NEIGHBORHOODS SEE MORE GREEN



Coming soon to a neighborhood near you - Green Recycling Bins! In mid-November, the City will expand its recycling services in Coral Ridge Isles, Coral Ridge Country Club Estates, Bermuda Riviera, Boulevard Park Isles, Bay Colony, Lake Estates, The Landings, Knoll Ridge, North Golf Estates, Dolphin Isles, Lauderdale Beach, and the Birch Park Finger Streets.

Residents will receive a green recycling bin for curbside recycling of Residential Mixed Paper products including copy paper, magazines, junk mail, school papers, cereal boxes, clean pizza boxes and cardboard (unlimited size). The green bin will be collected once a week on the same day as your normal recycling service.

KEEP IT CLEAN AND KEEP IT GREEN! Did You Know:

-  Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a TV or computer monitor for three hours;
-  Every glass bottle recycled saves enough energy to light a 100 watt light bulb for four hours;
-  Last year, the City of Fort Lauderdale recycled over 6,500 tons of recyclables through the curbside, business and events recycling programs, saving \$565,500. So, keep it clean and keep it green!

POLICE INCREASE MEASURES TO REDUCE CRIME



A new Police Action Plan is in place to promote safety throughout the City. The plan will safeguard against crime and enhance resident well-being in our communities. Provisions aim to reduce crime in the next six months.

An enhanced police recruitment campaign is underway to restore police officer staffing levels.

NEW TACTICAL UNIT TO FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME

This will mean more police on the streets to stop crime before it occurs. The police will also establish a citywide Tactical Unit to target violent crime. In the upcoming months, residents will see a visible increase in police activity and will certainly benefit from these new

safety initiatives.

Police management will conduct weekly meetings to recognize any potential crime trends. This will allow the department to immediately address any concerns through directed action plans, allocation of manpower and the utilization of the new Tactical Unit.

Crime prevents residents from enjoying the highest quality of life. This new initiative is designed to increase crime prevention efforts and to more efficiently apprehend criminals. For more information on the new safety initiatives and to learn what you can do to protect yourself against crime, please visit our website at:

www.fortlauderdale.gov.

JOIN THE FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Looking for a challenging rewarding career opportunity? The police department is currently accepting applications. For more information call the Recruiting Unit at **954.828.FLPD (3573)** or visit www.flpd.org.

CITY'S FINANCES LOOKING UP: TAXES GOING DOWN



The City is on track to provide residents with the largest millage rate decrease in more than 10 years.

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel recognized the City's progress in a recent editorial, stating:

Fort Lauderdale residents can breathe a sigh of relief, since the long, dark night of financial chaos for their city appears to be over...Fort Lauderdale's finances again look sound.

FORT LAUDERDALE'S FINANCES AGAIN LOOK SOUND

BOTTOM LINE:

The city administration has done a good job getting Fort Lauderdale's finances in shape.

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Fort Lauderdale's turnaround was also validated by Moody's Investor's Service, which upgraded the City's financial outlook to "stable." Moody's noted that, "the City's financial operations are stabilizing and replenishment of General Fund reserves will provide the City with needed operating flexibility going forward."

JOIN THE FIRST FORT LAUDERDALE MARATHON



Start gearing up for the Fort Lauderdale marathon set amidst the City's tropical surroundings.

On November 12, 2005 runners will follow the picturesque beach loop from Fort Lauderdale's South Beach to the Hillsboro Pier. The inaugural race kicks off at 6:30 a.m. and will also feature a shorter, optional 13.1-mile trail along the marathon route. Register at www.A1Amarathon.com.



EXECUTIVE AIRPORT WORKING TO REDUCE NOISE

Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport is committed to minimizing noise over neighboring communities. The Airport operates a comprehensive Noise Abatement Program that features noise reduction measures including: routing jet traffic over the I-95 industrial corridor; restricting runway usage; voluntary nighttime use of "quiet one" departure procedures; a pilot education program; and restricting the hours of maintenance run-ups, touch-and-go and practice approach operations.

The Airport also provides a 24-hour Noise Abatement Hotline **954.828.6666** that residents are encouraged to call if they have questions or concerns about specific noise incidents. Executive Airport will continue to build upon the positive relationships it has established to maintain a balance between the needs of its users and the community.

SAFETY TIPS FROM OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT



The best way to reduce crime is to prevent it. Follow these easy safety tips to guard against theft from your vehicle:

Lock your car doors

Remember to take your keys

Keep valuables out of sight

Park in well-lit areas

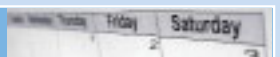
Invest in a theft-deterrent device

Do not leave a running car unattended

**Do not leave driver's license, credit cards
or vehicle registration in your car**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



September 7:

1:30 p.m.,

City Commission Conference Meeting

6:00 p.m.,

City Commission Regular Meeting

September 10:

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.,

Big Toy and Truck Extravaganza - Holiday Park

September 13:

7:00 p.m.,

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Meeting

September 17:

8:00 a.m.,

Citizens Volunteer Corps - Cleanup Event

Beach Community Center, 3351 NE 33rd Avenue

September 20:

1:30 p.m.,

City Commission Conference Meeting

6:00 p.m.,

City Commission Regular Meeting

CITY WELCOMES ROCK ISLAND AND TWIN LAKES NORTH



The City extends a warm welcome to the residents of Rock Island and Twin Lakes North, who will officially join Fort Lauderdale on September 15. We look forward to working in partnership with you to strengthen our neighborhoods and enhance quality of life.

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
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CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT AT 954.828.4PIO (4746)

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Si desea copias en español de esta información, sírvase llamar al teléfono 954.828.4746.

Poun mande kopi enfòmasyon sa yo an kreyòl, telefòn 954.828.4746.